



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAIL THIEVES CHARGED IN SEPARATE CASES

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on March 18, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned two separate indictments against three defendants on charges of possessing stolen mail. Charged in one case were Steven Michael Allen, DOB 4/9/84, and Christopher Joseph Bergeron, DOB 4/16/69, both of Phoenix, Arizona, and in the second case, Reina Eileen Villarreal, DOB 4/11/81, of Peoria, Arizona, was charged.

The first indictment alleges that ALLEN and BERGERON possessed on February 14, 2003, three items stolen from the mail, and that on February 21, 2003, Villarreal possessed three different items stolen from the mail. All three

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defendants were arrested on complaints filed previously and have been ordered detained.

The federal indictments charge the defendants with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1708, Possession of Stolen Mail.

A conviction for that offense carries a maximum penalty of 5 year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Peoria Police Department, the Phoenix Police Department, and the U. S. Postal Inspection Service.

The prosecutions are being handled by Daniel R. Drake, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-273-PHX & CR-03-269-PHX
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-035

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